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New Look Needed in International Diplomacy - USD Official

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NEWS RELEASE



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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW LOOK NEEDED IN INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY--USD OFFICIAL

SAN DIEGO, Calif.--The United Nations has become a convenient center for carrying on world diplomacy at minimum cost, according to former diplomat Michael Newman.

Speaking to the International Relations Club of the University of San Diego Thursday (Feb.20) Newman said that most of the newer countries found it cheap and easy to establish a mission accredited to the UN where they could meet with representatives of almost every other nation in the world.

Newman is director of development and public relations at the University of San Diego.

"Now, instead of having to establish diplomatic and consular offices in the 150 countries around the world, a mini-diplomatic mission at the UN can provide many useful contacts, particularly for the smaller countries," said Newman. A former delegate to the UN, Newman was attached to the British Embassy in Washington and New York.

"For about \$40,000 these small nations have all the privileges of membership of the 'International Club' which we call UN. This is about one hundredth part of what the United States pays for the same membership," he said.

Newman said he often feared many diplomatic reports from foreign posts to their home countries were misleading. "They are made by foreign service officers who can err very badly in interpreting local events," he said. "Some officials provide reports which tend to flatter their own position instead of being accurate summaries of the undercurrents of local opinion, which are very difficult for a foreigner to assess."

Newman felt that many of the events during the past twelve years in Africa had been misread and misreported back to the great powers by their diplomatic missions.

"People were reporting what they wanted to see instead of what was happening. Often they just didn't know. How can we read the minds and

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intentions of foreigners?"

"I have certainly learned more about the American people in the past three years by living as an American than I ever learned as a diplomat in Washington in the previous two years."

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